

AVATAR

The Last Airbender

BOOK ONE: WATER

CHAPTERS NINETEEN AND TWENTY: "The Siege of the North, Part 1 & 2"

Written by

John O'Bryan

Aaron Ehasz

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTHERN WATER TRIBE TRAINING FIELD - DAY

KATARA is sparring with an inept young Waterbender -- SANGOK. The young man does an awkward bending maneuver, successfully transforming a water blast into an icy sphere, which he launches at Katara. Katara expertly redirects the attack, circling the sphere behind her. Then she transforms it back into liquid water, and sends the rushing wave back at her opponent. The wave nails him, raising him up a few feet in the air, then freezing him in place. He looks terrified, as though his life just flashed before him. MASTER PAKKU approaches with a critical eye.

MASTER PAKKU
Nice try, Pupil Sangok. A couple
of more years, and you might be
ready to fight a sea sponge.

Pakku does a casual move, turning the ice wave back to water and releasing Sangok, who tumbles to the ground.

MASTER PAKKU (cont'd)
Would anyone care for a rematch
with Katara?

PAN ACROSS the class of defeated, young males, all of whom look like they've just lost a fight. They all shake their heads 'no'. Pakku turns to Katara.

MASTER PAKKU (cont'd)
Katara, you've advanced more
quickly than any student I've ever
trained. You have proven that with
fierce determination, passion, and
hard work, you can accomplish
anything. Raw talent alone is not
enough...

With that he turns to Aang.

MASTER PAKKU (cont'd)
Pupil Aang!

REVEAL AANG, who is bending a spinning ball of air, which MOMO is running on top of. Startled, Aang stops spinning the ball. Momo's momentum carries him right off the ball and crashing onto the floor.

AANG
Yes, Master Pakku?

MASTER PAKKU

Care to step into the sparring circle? I figure since you've found time to play with house pets, you must have already mastered Waterbending.

AANG

I wouldn't say "mastered," but check this out!

Aang does a small Waterbending move that splashes Momo. Momo shakes himself dry and then splashes water at Aang. Pakku glares at them disapprovingly.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - THAT MOMENT

SOKKA is taking a tour of the city with PRINCESS YUE.

PRINCESS YUE

So they don't have palaces in the Southern Tribe?

SOKKA

Are you kidding? I grew up in a block of ice -- it's not exactly a cultural hub.

PRINCESS YUE

(LAUGHING)

She gently touches him on the shoulder. Sokka smiles. Yue sees where her hand is and pulls it away.

PRINCESS YUE (cont'd)

Sokka... this is wrong.

SOKKA

What's wrong? We're taking a walk!

PRINCESS YUE

I'm engaged. It just... feels...

Sokka sees that he's losing her. He acts quickly.

SOKKA

I know what you need -- you need to meet my good friend Appa.

PRINCESS YUE

Who?

EXT. STABLES - MOMENTS LATER

Sokka introduces Yue to APPA as he pats the bison on the nose.

SOKKA
Appa and I go way back, don't we
boy?

Appa excitedly jumps on Sokka, pinning him to the ground and licking him intensely.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(STARTLED SCREAM) Easy! Down boy!
No, up!

PRINCESS YUE
Looks like you haven't been giving
Appa enough attention.

SMASH CUT TO:

Sokka and the Princess aboard Appa.

PRINCESS YUE (cont'd)
So how does this work?

SOKKA
You hanging on tight?

Yue nods. Sokka smiles knowingly, and his eyes narrow confidently.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(suave)
Yip. Yip.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - CONTINUOUS

Appa LAUNCHES into the atmosphere like a rocket.

PRINCESS YUE
(ultra-excited)
Ohhh myyyyy gooodness!

EXT. SKY - APPA'S BACK - CONTINUOUS

The princess gazes below at the city, enjoying the view.

PRINCESS YUE

Wow! I can't believe you do this every day.

SOKKA

Yeah, we pretty much live up here.

He slaps Appa's hide affectionately.

PRINCESS YUE

Is it always this cold in the sky?

Shivering, she huddles close to Sokka. He looks back at her and smiles.

SOKKA

Not when you're with someone.

He moves closer. Their faces are very close -- she looks up and gazes into his eyes.

PRINCESS YUE

It's beautiful up here.

SOKKA

(lost in the moment)

Yeah...

For a second we think they might be about to kiss... but once again, they catch themselves and separate.

SOKKA (cont'd)

(AWKWARD EXHALE) Whoa. Yeah...

good times, good times...

(suddenly distracted)

Hey, look.

Sokka notices black snow falling from the sky.

PRINCESS YUE

What's happening?

APPA

(GROWLS)

SOKKA

Oh no.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - CONTINUOUS

Denizens of the Water Tribe GASP in awe as black snow begins to fall on their city...

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - SIMULTANEOUS

Aang and Momo are catching snowflakes in their mouths, as Katara watches the chaos of the unruly class. Suddenly, Aang and Momo see the black snow. Disgusted, Momo begins to spit the snowflakes from his mouth. Aang looks baffled. Katara, on the other hand, reacts in horror.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. CHIEF'S TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

Master Pakku and the Water Tribe Messenger stand beside a decorative fountain. They watch in awe as the black snow falls and contaminates their fountain.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. WATER TRIBE ARMORY - SIMULTANEOUS

CHIEF ARNOOK and several soldiers stare out the window watching the black snow fall.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - SECONDS LATER

Sokka is now down on the ground, holding a handful of the stuff.

SOKKA

Soot.

PRINCESS YUE

What?

SOKKA

I've seen it before... right before my village was attacked. It's soot mixed with snow.

PRINCESS YUE

But why?

SOKKA
(with great dread)
It's the Fire Nation. They've
closed in on the North Pole. And
from the looks of this stuff, I'd
say there's a lot of them.

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - ADMIRAL ZHAO'S SHIP - THAT MOMENT

ADMIRAL ZHAO stands on the deck with UNCLE IROH.

ADMIRAL ZHAO
This will truly be one for the
history books, General Iroh. Just
think: centuries from now, people
will study the great Admiral Zhao,
who destroyed the last of the Water
Tribe civilization. You're lucky
you're here to see it.

Uncle shifts uneasily.

UNCLE
Be careful what you wish for,
Admiral. History is not always
kind to its subjects.

ADMIRAL ZHAO
I suppose you speak from
experience. But rest assured, this
will be nothing like your legendary
failure at Ba Seng Se.

UNCLE
(pained)
I hope not, for your sake.

Zhao turns his back, ignoring Uncle.

ADMIRAL ZHAO
Tell the captains to prepare for
first strike.

Iroh nods and exits below deck.

INT. ADMIRAL ZHAO'S SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Uncle stops and speaks conspiratorially to a masked Fire
Nation soldier.

UNCLE
We'll be landing soon. Do you have
a plan?

The soldier lifts the visor of his helmet, revealing that it's actually PRINCE ZUKO in disguise.

ZUKO
I'm working on it, Uncle.

Uncle nods and continues walking.

EXT. CHIEF'S TEMPLE - A LITTLE LATER

A LOUD BELL rings as everyone in town hurries to the chief's temple. Sokka and the Princess are running along with everyone else, but suddenly she stops.

SOKKA
What's wrong? We have to go!

Sokka tries to escort her by the arm. She stops and brushes his hand off of her.

PRINCESS YUE
No, Sokka... wait. I can't see you anymore -- not at all.

SOKKA
(shocked and hurt)
What? We're just friends.

PRINCESS YUE
I wish we could just be friends...
but I like you too much, and it's
too confusing to be around you.
I'm marrying someone else.

She turns away from him.

SOKKA
You don't love him, do you? You
don't even seem to like him.

PRINCESS YUE
But I do love my people.

SOKKA
You're not marrying them!

PRINCESS YUE
You don't understand. I have
duties to my father, to my tribe.
I have to do this. Goodbye.

She runs away from him into the chief's temple. Sokka is left standing there, stunned and heartbroken.

INT. CHIEF'S TEMPLE - MINUTES LATER

Everyone associated with the Northern Water Tribe -- including Aang, Katara, and Sokka -- is gathered inside the temple.

CHIEF ARNOOK
The day we have feared for so long
has arrived -- the Fire Nation is
on our doorstep.

The citizens MURMUR LOUDLY as they take a beat to digest this. Pan across their expressions as the chief continues.

CHIEF ARNOOK (cont'd)
It is with great sadness I call my
my family -- here before me,
knowing well that some of these
faces are about to vanish from our
tribe...

ANGLE ON: Princess Yue. (A little subtle foreshadowing!)

CHIEF ARNOOK (cont'd)
But they will never vanish from our
hearts. Now, as we approach the
battle for our existence, I call
upon the great spirits:

During the speech, we see various warriors, elderly, children, etc. reacting. The chief closes his eyes and raises his arms to invoke the spirits.

CHIEF ARNOOK (cont'd)
Spirit of the ocean, spirit of the
moon, be with us!

The chief continues addressing the crowd.

CHIEF ARNOOK (cont'd)
I'm going to need volunteers for a
dangerous mission...

Sokka stands up.

SOKKA
Count me in.

Katara and Aang look worried.

KATARA
Sokka...

Several more men stand and volunteer.

CHIEF ARNOOK

Be warned: many of you will not
return. Come forward to receive my
mark if you accept the task.

Sokka and the rest of the volunteers make their way to the front of the room. As they greet the chief, he marks each of them with warrior paint.

Sokka receives his mark from the chief and starts to exit. But he stops and looks back at the princess, whose gaze is still fixed on him -- her heart obviously heavy with sorrow. Trying to remain stoic, Sokka exits the chamber. As soon as he's gone, a tear streams down her cheek.

EXT. CHIEF'S TEMPLE - MINUTES LATER

Aang stands alone, looking out to sea with a troubled look on his face. Chief Arnook and Katara come up behind him.

CHIEF ARNOOK

The stillness before battle is
unbearable. Such a quiet dread.

AANG

I wasn't there when the Fire Nation
attacked my people.

A look of determination comes over Aang.

AANG (cont'd)

I'm going to make a difference this
time.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - OUTER RING - A LITTLE LATER

Dozens of people, including Sokka and Katara, scramble up ladders to peer over the tops of the walls...

In the distance, just barely visible on the horizon, is a tiny, unrecognizable dot. Nobody makes a sound as the dot gets nearer and nearer, turning into a ship. Aang arrives on Appa at the top of the wall.

Suddenly, a small orange light appears above the ship. It grows larger and larger, until... everyone sees that it's actually a LARGE FIERY PROJECTILE heading right for them at an astounding speed.

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CRASH! With a thunderous impact, the FIERY BOULDER SMASHES the Water Tribe seal on the outer ring of the city, scattering debris and people all over the place.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - OUTER RING - CONTINUOUS

Everyone runs for cover as a couple more fireballs impact the outer wall and the surrounding ocean.

Aang recovers from the blast, and he and Appa take off toward the battle.

AANG

Yip, yip!

Sokka picks himself up and tries to find his sister. She grabs his hand and pulls herself out of the debris. They look out over the ocean to where Aang has gone.

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - CONTINUOUS

Aang and Appa speed toward the ship that launched the fiery projectile. He sees about four to six trebuchets on board the ship. Then, SW000SH! They fire another large, blazing rock -- Aang deflects it with an Airbending blast as it whizzes by, pushing it off course so it careens harmlessly into the ocean.

APPA

(ENRAGED BELLOW)

AANG

I'll take it from here, boy.

Aang throws open his glider and dives toward the ship. Firebenders punch fire blasts at Aang, who weaves through them with great agility.

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - FIRE NATION SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Aang lands on the deck of the ship and is immediately rushed by the many Fire Nation soldiers on board.

Aang spins around and knocks several men overboard with a gust of wind. Then he looks around at the trebuchets -- they're already being reloaded by a few muscular TREBUCHET OPERATORS. The tar-covered boulders are then ignited by Firebenders. Aang runs for the nearest trebuchet.

The muscular trebuchet guys swing large warhammers at Aang, barely missing him as he weaves through them to get to the trebuchet. Two of them simultaneously throw their hammers at Aang. Aang reacts in a manner reminiscent of Katara's Waterbending move, redirecting and accelerating the hammers at the trebuchet's fulcrum. The impact shatters it and causes the firing mechanism to collapse.

Aang hurries to the next trebuchet on the ship. He quickly tampers with the net of the trebuchet, fastening it to a piece of the floorboards. Aang releases the firing mechanism. The trebuchet fires, ripping out a large chunk of the deck, and whipping its fiery boulder straight through the floor in front of it.

Aang avoids Firebending blasts as he makes his way to the next trebuchet. Aang does a huge wind blast using his staff which causes the trebuchet to begin spinning. The boulder in the net whips around as various troops dive for cover. The netted fireball whips around, skewing to the side and crushing another nearby trebuchet!

He runs toward the last trebuchet but is cut off by the angry crew. He turns to go the other way but is met by a line of Firebenders, who are ready to strike. It looks like Aang has nowhere to go, but... he jumps up into the air and hops up the side of the trebuchet, avoiding the fire blasts and weapons as he goes. Aang makes it to the top of the trebuchet and looks down at the numerous troops surrounding him, then... SMACK! Appa comes tearing into frame, sending several of the men overboard with a mighty HEADBUTT.

AANG

Appa!

The bison shakes off several soldiers, flinging some overboard with his teeth. He stares down another group of crew members, wiping his paw on the deck like a bull about to charge.

A few of the more cowardly soldiers consider their odds, and dive overboard to avoid the impending clash. Aang seizes the opportunity, and does a series of flips and turns as he sends numerous air blasts at the trebuchet. The strikes all land and it seems nothing has happened. He looks at Appa and then looks back at the trebuchet. All the rivets pop out and the trebuchet falls apart and collapses.

Suddenly, the boat JOLTS to a stop. Aang looks overboard to see a Water Tribe vessel has arrived, and Waterbenders are bending giant ice spikes out of the ocean which lift the ship out of the water and maroon it. (This is what happened to the abandoned ship in episode 101.)

AANG (cont'd)

(to Appa, panting)

Thanks for the rescue, buddy.

Aang goes pale. In the distance, a vast navy of Fire Navy ships approaches.

AANG (cont'd)
(deflated)
You've got to be kidding me...

In unison, the ships all launch fireballs.

INT. WATER TRIBE ARMORY - LATER

Chief Arnook addresses his special force of volunteer warriors.

CHIEF ARNOOK
You'll be infiltrating the Fire
Nation Navy. That means you'll all
need one of these uniforms...

We widen to reveal he has dressed someone in an outmoded Fire Nation uniform.

SOKKA
(LAUGHS)

HAHN
What's your problem?

SOKKA
Fire Navy uniforms don't look like
that.

Everyone is astounded by Sokka's apparent hubris.

HAHN
Of course they do. These are real
uniforms captured from actual Fire
Navy soldiers.

SOKKA
When, like a hundred years ago?

CHIEF ARNOOK
Eighty-five.

SOKKA
The Fire Nation doesn't wear
shoulder spikes anymore. The newer
uniforms are more streamlined.

HAHN
How do we know we can trust this
guy? Such bold talk for a new
recruit...

CHIEF ARNOOK

Sokka is from our sister tribe,
Hahn. He's a capable warrior, and
I value his input.

(back to group)

Now, our first objective is to
determine the identity of their
commanding officer...

SOKKA

His name is Zhao.

The warriors look at Sokka, impressed.

SOKKA (cont'd)

Middle-aged, big sideburns, bigger
temper...

CHIEF ARNOOK

Sokka, I want you to tell
everything you know to Hahn -- he's
leading this mission.

(turns to Hahn)

Hahn, show Sokka your respect. I
expect nothing less from my future
son-in-law.

Sokka reacts in disbelief.

SOKKA

Princess Yue's marrying you?

HAHN

Yeah. What of it?

Sokka bites his tongue. We can see his resentment boil.

SOKKA

Nothing. Congratulations.

EXT. NORTHERN WATER TRIBE - OUTER RING - THAT MOMENT

Another large fireball sails over the Water Tribe's walls...
And strikes the icy cliffs behind the city.

As another fireball speeds toward the city, Pakku and a few
other benders raise a massive wave of water and FREEZE the
fireball in midair.

INT. ADMIRAL ZHAO'S SHIP - SUNSET

Zhao stands on the deck, overlooking the battle. Uncle
approaches him from behind.

UNCLE

It's almost twilight, Admiral. As
your military consultant, I must
advise you to halt your attack.

Admiral Zhao turns to face Uncle, listening.

UNCLE (cont'd)

The Waterbenders draw their power
from the Moon, and it is nearly
full tonight. You should wait, and
resume the attack at daybreak.

An eerie, subtle grin washes over Zhao's face, flickering in
the light of the nearby torches.

ADMIRAL ZHAO

Oh, I am well aware of the Moon
problem. And I'm working on a
solution.

(ponders for a beat)

But for now, daybreak it is.

Uncle breathes a sigh of relief.

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - FIRE NAVY SQUADRON - SECONDS LATER

The Fire Navy's trebuchets are eerily quiet now.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - CANALS - CONTINUOUS

The Princess and Katara look out over the city.

PRINCESS YUE

They've stopped firing.

Suddenly, Aang comes flying back on Appa. They're both tired
from fighting.

KATARA

Aang!

AANG

(panting)

I can't do it... I can't do it...

KATARA

What happened?!

AANG

I must have taken out a dozen Fire Navy ships, but there's just too many of them. I can't fight them all!

Aang is almost sobbing from defeat. Katara and Princess Yue can think of nothing to say.

PRINCESS YUE

But... you have to. You're the Avatar.

AANG

I'm just one kid...

Katara comforts Aang.

EXT. COMMANDER ZHAO'S SHIP - REAR DECK - DUSK

Zuko straps on the last piece of a heavy, white ninja outfit. Uncle seems weighted with concern as he watches his nephew.

UNCLE

You are fishing for an octopus, my nephew. You need a tightly woven net, or he will squeeze through the tiniest hole and escape.

ZUKO

I don't need your wisdom right now, Uncle.

Zuko pulls on a rope, lowering a lifeboat from the side of the warship. Uncle is somewhat awkward, avoiding eye contact as he fumfers.

UNCLE

I'm sorry, I just nag you because... well, ever since I lost my son... (CHOKES UP)

ZUKO

Uncle, you don't have to say it.

Uncle regains composure and looks Zuko in the eye.

UNCLE

I think of you as my own.

ZUKO

("I love you too.")
I know, Uncle.

Uncle nods.

ZUKO (cont'd)
We'll meet again. After I have the
Avatar.

He bows stiffly to Iroh, who answers with an emotional bear hug. Zuko awkwardly returns a half-hug. Then, in a flash, Zuko slides down the ropes into the lifeboat. Uncle leans over the railing and calls down to him.

UNCLE
Remember your "breath of fire" --
it could save your life out there.

ZUKO (O.S.)
I will.

With tears welling in his eyes, Uncle Iroh watches his nephew paddle away in the tiny boat.

UNCLE
And put your hood up -- keep your
ears warm.

ZUKO
I'll be fine!

INT. WATER TRIBE ARMORY - CONTINUOUS

Sokka is talking to Hahn as they sharpen their weapons.

HAHN
Let me tell you, Sokka. I've
courted a lot of girls, but Yue is
the finest... and she comes with
the most perks.

SOKKA
Perks? What does that mean?

HAHN
I mean -- Yue's nice and
everything, but the points I'll
gain with the chief aren't bad
either.

He is startled to see Sokka's reaction to this.

SOKKA
Princess Yue is wasted on a self-
absorbed weasel like you!

HAHN

Whoa, hang on! What do you care?

Sokka turns away and bites his lip. That remark hit home.

HAHN (cont'd)

(condescending)

You're just a simple rube from the Southern Tribe. What would you know of the political complexities of our life? No offense.

Sokka is now steaming from anger. He whirls around and tackles Hahn. The two knock over a couple of weapon racks, calling everyone's attention to the brawl.

SOKKA

You're just a jerk without a soul!
No offense!

Sokka struggles with Hahn. Then, they throw a couple of punches at each other before Chief Arnook breaks them apart.

CHIEF ARNOOK

That's enough!

He directs Sokka to the other end of the barracks and turns to Hahn.

CHIEF ARNOOK (cont'd)

Sokka, you're off the mission.

Sokka hangs his head and bitterly watches Hahn enjoy his promotion.

HAHN

Alright, fall in, men! Everybody listen to what I say, and we'll take out this Admiral Cho in no time!

He and his special forces guys begin to exit. Sokka calls after Hahn to correct him.

SOKKA

It's Admiral Zhao!

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - NIGHT

Prince Zuko is now canoeing his way through the icy waters that surround the Water Tribe city.

He sees a guard tower up ahead, and he folds himself down into his canoe, perfectly camouflaging his body with the ice floe as he passes right under the guards' eyes.

EXT. FRONT LOCKING CHAMBER - MINUTES LATER

Zuko floats along the outer wall of the city, searching for a way in. Around the corner, he sees the Water Tribe's front locking chamber, where a Water Tribe vessel is just returning from battle. It coasts into the waterlocking chamber as a giant door shuts behind it. The chamber then begins to fill with water, lifting the vessel to another large door (just like a modern canal).

Zuko looks at his canoe and realizes he'll never get in that way. But then he notices a herd of seals diving into the water. He waits a few seconds, looking intrigued.

ZUKO

Where are they going?

He approaches the ice ledge where he saw the seals -- sure enough, they aren't coming back up. Zuko looks deep into the water, but he can't see any trace of them.

ZUKO (cont'd)

They're coming up for air
somewhere.

He breathes deep, sharp breaths, causing slivers of fire to warm his body. Then, with tightly clinched teeth, Zuko dives into the sub-zero water.

EXT. CHIEF'S TEMPLE - BALCONY - THAT MOMENT

Katara, Princess Yue, and Aang gaze at the bright, nearly full moon. Momo's there too.

PRINCESS YUE

The legends say the Moon was the
first Waterbender. Our ancestors
saw how it pushed and pulled the
tides, and learned how to do it
themselves.

KATARA

(realizing)

I've always noticed my Waterbending
is stronger at night.

PRINCESS YUE

Our strength comes from the spirit
of the Moon, our life comes from
the spirit of the ocean. They work
together to keep balance.

AANG

The spirits -- maybe I can find
them and get their help.

PRINCESS YUE

How can you do that?

KATARA

The Avatar is the bridge between
our world and the spirit world.
Aang can talk to them!

PRINCESS YUE

Maybe they'll give you the wisdom
to win this battle.

AANG

Or maybe they'll unleash a crazy-
amazing spirit attack on the Fire
Nation!

(beat, off their looks)
Or wisdom, that's good too.

KATARA

The only problem is, last time you
got to the spirit world by
accident. How are you going to get
there this time?

Aang shrugs, "I don't know."

PRINCESS YUE

I have an idea. Follow me.

Katara and Aang look at each other, surprised.

EXT. BEHIND CHIEF'S TEMPLE - MINUTES LATER

The princess leads Aang and Katara behind the temple to a
secluded cove.

AANG

So, is this the way to the spirit
world?

PRINCESS YUE

(LAUGHS) No. You'll have to get
there on your own. But I can take
you to the most spiritual place in
the entire North Pole...

She motions ahead at a waterfall. They walk through it and
find behind it the most lush, green, tropical oasis Aang has
ever seen. His eyes nearly pop out of his head at the sight
of the odd, out of place garden.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. WATER TRIBE OASIS - CONTINUOUS

Aang immediately begins rolling around in the thick grass as Katara and the princess catch up.

AANG
(LAUGHING) I never thought I'd
miss grass this much!

Katara begins to shed her heavy coat.

KATARA
It's so warm here! How is that
possible?

PRINCESS YUE
It's the center of all spiritual
energy in our land.

With folded arms, she glares at Momo, who is trying to catch a swimming koi fish in a nearby fountain. He sees everyone staring and shies away from it.

AANG
You're right, Yue. I can feel...
something. It's so... tranquil.

He sits in the lotus position and fixes his gaze on the two swimming koi in the fountain.

INT. UNDERGROUND ICE CAVERN - NIGHT

One by one, a herd of seals begins to emerge from the freezing-cold water. They leap onto the solid ground inside an icy, underground cavern. A beat later, Zuko emerges from the water and heaves himself onto the solid ground.

ZUKO
(CATCHING HIS BREATH)

Zuko slowly gets to his feet, trying hard to keep his metabolism going. Suddenly, he blows himself dry with a violent Firebending move. The nearby seals BARK angrily at their insensitive trespasser.

ZUKO (cont'd)
Be quiet!

Zuko shoves his way through the crowd of seals, who continue BARKING. Zuko examines the corridors of the cave and notices that there are many paths leading in all different directions. He pauses to consider which one to take.

Then he sees the correct path -- a waterfall coming down from directly overhead. He begins scaling the sides of the cave, toward the top of the waterfall.

INT. WATER TRIBE ARMORY - THAT MOMENT

Sokka is sitting in the corner, sharpening his boomerang. Suddenly, Chief Arnook appears.

CHIEF ARNOOK
Is something wrong, Sokka?

SOKKA
(bitter)
Oh no. Hahn's out there on the top-secret mission while I'm here sharpening my boomerang. Everything's fine.

CHIEF ARNOOK
Listen to me. I took you off the mission for selfish reasons -- I have a special task in mind for you.

SOKKA
What, you want me to scrub the barracks?

CHIEF ARNOOK
I want you to guard my daughter, Princess Yue.

Sokka stares at the chief for a beat, trying to keep a poker face.

SOKKA
(SWALLOWS NERVOUSLY) Sure... that shouldn't be too hard.

INT. UNDERGROUND ICE CAVE - LATER

Zuko is fighting the force of the falling water as he attempts to dig his way through the hard, densely packed ice overhead. He pulls away a large chunk of frozen earth, releasing an even bigger torrent of water onto his head.

ZUKO
(AGONIZING GROANS)

The Prince almost loses his grip, but he manages to grab a stalactite and regain his footing. Holding his breath, he reaches up through the waterfall and pulls himself up through the hole he made...

INT. SMALLER UNDERGROUND CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Zuko finds himself swimming through a cave that is almost completely filled with water. He pokes his head above the water and takes another HUGE BREATH before going back under.

He sees a narrow tunnel hidden beneath the water, and swims into it.

INT. NARROW WATER TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Zuko swims with vigor toward what appears to be the way out. But instead, he hits a solid sheet of ice at the end of the tunnel. Zuko punches the ice, but he can't generate enough force to break it. He can see daylight through the translucent ice barrier. He punches it again, and it still doesn't crack.

Zuko can feel himself running out of air. Zuko uses his hands to melt a small hole in the ice. He kicks the ice as hard as he can. It begins to fracture, and on Zuko's next kick, the wall bursts open. The water level drops instantly and Zuko is ejected into...

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - CANALS - CONTINUOUS

ZUKO
(DESPERATE GASPS FOR AIR)

Zuko looks as if maybe he wasn't so sure he was going to make it. He looks up and realizes he is in a canal inside the Water Tribe city. Zuko climbs out of the canal and darts away into the darkness.

EXT. WATER TRIBE OASIS - THAT MOMENT

Aang is now sitting in the lotus position in front of the koi fountain. Katara and Princess Yue whisper to each other, trying not to disturb Aang.

PRINCESS YUE
(whispering)
Why is he sitting like that?

KATARA
(whispering)
He's meditating -- trying to cross over into the spirit world. It takes all his concentration.

PRINCESS YUE
(whispering)
Is there any way we can help?

Suddenly, Aang turns around with eyes wide open.

AANG

How about some quiet? Come on,
guys, I can hear every word you're
saying.

Katara and the princess smile at each other with their mouths shut tightly. Aang continues his meditation as he watches the koi swim in a circular fashion. The fish -- one black, one white -- begin to look like a spiralling yin-yang. The yin-yang pulsates and even appears to grow larger as the fish swim faster and faster.

Suddenly, the princess reacts with surprise as Aang's tattoos begin to glow.

PRINCESS YUE

Is he okay?

KATARA

He's crossing into the spirit
world. He'll be fine as long as we
don't move his body. That's his
way back to the physical world.

PRINCESS YUE

Maybe we should get some help?

KATARA

No. He's my friend. I'm perfectly
capable of protecting him.

ZUKO (O.S.)

Well, aren't you a big girl now?

Katara's hairs stand on end when she hears Zuko's voice. She spins around to face him.

KATARA

(horrified)

No...

ZUKO

Yes. Hand him over and I won't
have to hurt you.

Zuko steps toward Aang aggressively, but Katara surprises him with an astounding display of Waterbending -- resulting in Zuko landing belly-down on the ground with his face frozen to the ice. He struggles for a second, then frees himself with a big, fiery exhale.

Then, in the light of a nearly full moon, Katara and Zuko square off. Princess Yue runs off, unnoticed.

ZUKO (cont'd)
I see you've learned a new trick.
But I didn't come this far to lose
to you.

He attempts a couple of flaming roundhouse kicks. Katara quickly blocks them with a couple of ICE BEAMS, which she bends from a nearby canal.

Frustrated, Zuko unleashes a FLURRY of kicks and punches. Katara backs away, repeatedly blocking his blows with her ice blocking technique. After several blocked punches, Zuko realizes he is entirely imprisoned by her ice beams.

ZUKO (cont'd)
(impressed, in spite of
himself)
You little peasant...

He SHATTERS the ice beams with a couple of swift kicks.

ZUKO (cont'd)
You've found a master, haven't you?

He charges at her with his fire daggers, slashing through the air with the flaming blades. Katara evades a couple of these, then... she literally bends the ice right out from under Zuko, sending him crashing onto his face again.

As Zuko gets to his feet, he sees the Avatar sitting just a few feet away. Zuko makes a run for him, and actually manages to grab part of Aang's robe, when Katara knocks him to the ground with a powerful water blast. She stands above him in a fighting posture.

Even more enraged, Zuko takes his heaviest swings at Katara yet. With a subtle Tai-Chi flourish, she Waterbends a thick layer of ice around Zuko's face. He stumbles around blindly, trying to remove it.

ZUKO
(MUFFLED SWEARING)

Katara hits him again, this time with an ice javelin. It hits Zuko in the chest and shatters. But the blow tears his clothes and knocks him across the oasis and into a canal. Katara quickly follows through by freezing the canal, holding Zuko in place.

INT. ADMIRAL ZHAO'S SHIP - THAT MOMENT

Zhao is peering out the window of his cabin. The faintest sliver of orange is beginning to appear on the horizon.

ADMIRAL ZHAO
It's daybreak at last. Let's write
history.

Uncle nods and signals to the helmsman.

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - CONTINUOUS

Just outside the Water Tribe city, the Fire Navy ships begin to move. Smoke billows from their stacks as they pick up momentum.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY -- CONTINUOUS

We see various shots of the Water Tribe warriors getting ready for battle -- putting on war paint, preparing their weapons, etc.

EXT. WATER TRIBE OASIS - CONTINUOUS

Zuko breaks himself free of the frozen canal, but Katara strikes again, this time with a move that produces a powerful WATER CANNON. Zuko flies farther down the canal, his body weary from the ass-kicking.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY WALLS - CONTINUOUS

The Fire Navy ships land on the shores of the Water Tribe, in a scene reminiscent of D-day. The onslaught of fire soldiers begins -- men with grappling hooks begin scaling the walls, Firebenders focus their flames on the walls in an attempt to break through, and several more soldiers attempt to breach the front locking chamber.

EXT. WATER TRIBE OASIS - CONTINUOUS

Katara and Zuko pause their fight as they hear the sounds of the battle raging at the city gates. Zuko, who is barely conscious, sees the small crescent of sunlight appearing in the sky. With the sun giving him strength, he gets a second wind, and musters a powerful Firebending blast. Katara tries to throw up an ice shield, but the blast is too powerful. Its force sends her flying backwards into the wall behind her. She falls to the ground, unconscious.

ZUKO
You rise with the moon, I rise with
the sun.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY WALLS - CONTINUOUS

Waterbenders flock to the tops of the walls to defend their city. In remarkable synchronicity, they bend a wave of water over the wall. The water freezes, bombarding the Fire Nation attackers with large chunks of ice.

But it isn't enough to stop the Fire Soldiers. They find a breach in the outer ring, made a by a previous trebuchet attack. They begin to pour through the hole, as Water Tribe soldiers rush to stop them.

Meanwhile, the Fire Nation has successfully broken through the outer wall. They begin to land their invasion forces.

INT. ADMIRAL ZHAO'S SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Zhao watches the battle through a spyglass.

ZHAO
The Water Tribe can try to resist
the inevitable, but their city will
fall today.

EXT. WATER TRIBE OASIS - CONTINUOUS

Katara is regaining consciousness. Suddenly, she shoots upright.

KATARA
Aang?!

Katara quickly surveys the city. She sees nothing but Water Tribe citizens running all over the place -- no Zuko, no Aang.

KATARA (cont'd)
Aang!!

Princess Yue arrives with Sokka.

SOKKA
What happened?! Where's Zuko?!

KATARA
(full of guilt)
He took Aang... he took him right
out from under me.

SOKKA
Where did they go?!

Katara's face says it all -- Aang could be anywhere.

EXT. NORTHERN TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Zuko is now pulling Aang's limp body on a sled. As he drags the Avatar away into the bleak, white tundra, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. NORTH POLE - MORNING

The Fire Nation has broken through the outer wall that defends the city. Many ships are close enough to launch fireballs into the city, while a few have begun landing and unloading troops, some on foot, some on rhinos, some in "ice crawlers". Water Tribe warriors and Waterbenders meet the attacking Fire Nation with force... In this series of shots, we should see Zhao overseeing things, the Chief directing some of his men, Pakku fighting impressively alongside other benders, etc.

EXT. SPIRIT OASIS - MORNING

Katara is stunned -- she can't believe she just lost Aang to Zuko. Sokka and Princess Yue are there, and Appa. Momo sits in the spot where Aang was, possibly sniffing -- he is wondering where Aang has gone.

KATARA

I can't believe I lost him...

SOKKA

You did everything you could. And now we need to do everything we can to get him back.

Sokka climbs on Appa. He helps Yue up too. The silvery liquid slips from Katara's arm, revealing she is healed.

SOKKA

Zuko can't have gotten far. We'll find him. Aang's going to be fine.

KATARA

Okay.

She climbs on Appa with them. But Momo won't move from the spot where Aang was. His eyes are wide -- it's a sad moment. (Let's make sure to give this a beat.)

KATARA

It's alright, you stay here, Momo. In case Aang comes back.

Momo curls up in the spot, to wait.

SOKKA

Yip, yip!

Appa takes off.

EXT. TUNDRA - MORNING

Zuko walks through the white, icy tundra, dragging Aang on a sled behind him. This is not the proud, put-together prince we are used to -- it's a more haggard version, having abandoned his armor, torn up his clothes, and had a rough 12 hours or more fighting his way to Aang. The winds are bitter cold -- Zuko grits his teeth, and exhales some smoke, doing a Firebending breathing technique meant to help combat the cold. (Weather note: it should be windy and cold, with a bit of snow getting whipped around from time to time, but it should be mostly clear to contrast with the weather change yet to come.)

Meanwhile, Aang is still in a meditative state. His eyes are closed, but his tattoos glow -- possibly pulsing in a slow, breathing-like meter. As we close in on Aang's face, it's clear he's in another world...

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - LUSH JUNGLY FOREST

This first area of the spirit world which Aang travels through should share landscaping characteristics with the spirit oasis, since this area is actually what is "spilling over" into the real world in the oasis. There are some strange plants we have never seen, and a few weird spirit creatures inhabit the area as well. Aang notices an ODD SPIRIT sitting beneath a tree, meditating.

ODD SPIRIT
(SOFT, MEDITATIVE "OM")

AANG
Hello? I'm sorry to disturb you.
I just really need to find the Moon
and the Ocean spirits.

The odd spirit speaks with a heavy accent.

ODD SPIRIT
(without opening his eyes)
Go. Away.

After a beat, the odd spirit opens one eye.

ODD SPIRIT
You're still here?

AANG
Yes, I need--

ODD SPIRIT
(LOUD, OBNOXIOUS "OM")

The spirit closes the eye, interrupting Aang, who now looks slightly frustrated. A small, glowing light -- perhaps the spirit world interpretation of a firefly -- floats by Aang.

ODD SPIRIT

Perhaps that thing will help you.

Aang doesn't know what he means -- the little light? It's floating away...

ODD SPIRIT

Chase it!

Aang takes off after it. The odd spirit shakes his head.

ODD SPIRIT

(SIGHS) Finally.

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - LUSH JUNGLY FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Aang chases the light through the forest, weaving through bushes, ducking under vines, leaping over rocks and logs etc. It starts to go up, and Aang (who can't Airbend here) nimbly scales a tree, then LEAPS through the air to catch the light in his cupped hands... he lands with a SPLASH!

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - POND

He emerges from the pond, drenched, his hands still cupped. He opens his hands to peek inside -- and the light escapes, and flies away!

AANG

Come back!

Aang gets out of the pond. He looks back at the ripples he left behind, but as they clear instead of his own reflection in the water he sees: AVATAR ROKU's face staring back at him.

AVATAR ROKU

Hello, Aang.

AANG

Roku...

EXT. SKY - APPA'S BACK - DAY

Appa flies (somewhat) low, and the gang follows tracks that Zuko has left in the snow. But it's beginning to snow harder, and the wind is picking up... one gust of wind nearly erases the trail before their eyes.

PRINCESS YUE
His trail's disappearing!

SOKKA
We need to find Aang fast...

EXT. TUNDRA - SIMULTANEOUS

Zuko is also feeling the effects of the worsening weather. The blizzard-like conditions beat down on him and Aang, and he struggles pulling the load. Suddenly, a SINK HOLE appears in the snow just behind the sled, which tips in -- but Zuko barely musters enough strength to prevent it -- and Aang -- from falling in entirely. The driving snow clears for just a moment -- long enough for Zuko to notice a cave opening.

ZUKO
Shelter...

He begins to drag the sled to the cave.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Zuko hauls the sled into the cave. He shakes snow off of himself. Then he unloads Aang, and props him up by a wall. He brushes snow off of Aang. He then removes the ropes from the sled, and uses them to bind Aang. (Hands, feet, etc. -- we only see him start here, but when we return Aang should be pretty bound up.)

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - POND

Aang speaks to his reflection in the pond, in which he sees Roku instead of himself.

AANG
Roku, the Water Tribe is under
attack! I need to find the Ocean
and the Moon spirits.

Roku mystically emerges from the pond, transforming from a reflection into a three dimensional person.

AVATAR ROKU
The Ocean and the Moon are ancient
spirits -- they crossed over from
the spirit world to the mortal
world very near the beginning.
There is only one spirit I know of
who is old enough to remember...

AANG
Who?

Roku looks worried.

AVATAR ROKU

The spirit's name is Koh, but he is very dangerous -- they call him "The Face Stealer." When you speak with him, you must be very careful to show no emotion at all -- not the slightest expression -- or he will steal your face.

Aang nods, somberly.

EXT. SKY - APPA'S BACK

The blizzard is nearly blinding. He pulls Appa's reigns, and they set down. (They were flying pretty low.) Sokka dismounts. He looks around -- nothing but white snow everywhere. He looks back at Katara, and shakes his head. Katara covers her mouth in disbelief.

INT. CAVE - SIMULTANEOUS

We now see Aang completely tied up. Zuko uses several Kung Fu moves to break the sled down into firewood. He builds a small pile of wood, then sets it ablaze with a Firebending move. He sits down next to the fire, to warm himself.

ZUKO

I finally have you, but I can't get you home because of this blizzard. There's always something.

Zuko lies back. He looks up at the light and shadows dancing on the cave ceiling.

ZUKO

Not that you would understand. You're like my sister. Everything always comes easy to her. She's a Firebending prodigy... and everyone adores her. My father says she was born lucky. He says I was lucky to be born.

Zuko turns on his side, facing away now.

ZUKO

I don't need luck, though -- I don't want it. I've always had to struggle and fight, and that's made me strong... it's made me who I am.

Zuko closes his eyes.

EXT. NORTH POLE - DAY

The battle continues.

INT. ZHAO'S SHIP - DAY

Zhao watches the battle. Uncle approaches him.

UNCLE

I don't need to remind you -- we
have a time limit. If we don't
defeat the Water Tribe before the
full Moon rises, they will be
undefeatable.

ZHAO

I assure you -- I have everything
under control.

(beat)

I intend to remove the Moon as a
factor.

Uncle is stunned.

UNCLE

Remove the Moon? How?

Just then, they hear a voice behind them.

HAHN (O.S.)

Admiral Choi! Prepare to meet your
fate!

Uncle and Zhao turn to face Hahn, who has gotten aboard the
ship somehow, wearing a Fire Nation uniform. He wields a
large scary weapon. Zhao very casually shoots Hahn with a
fireball, which sends him careening overboard, then resumes
his conversation with Uncle.

ZHAO

As I was saying. Years ago, I
stumbled upon a great and powerful
secret -- the identity of the Moon
spirit's mortal form.

UNCLE

What?!

ZHAO

I was a young lieutenant serving under General Xu (PRON: "shoo") in the Earth Kingdom. I discovered a hidden library -- underground, in fact. I tore through scroll after scroll. One of them contained a detailed illustration -- and the words "moon" and "ocean". I knew then that these spirits could be found... and killed. And that it was my destiny to do so.

(If it helps, we could see a stylized flashback during Zhao's preceding speech. Though it should not reveal the identity of the spirits yet.)

UNCLE

Zhao, the spirits are not to be trifled with!

ZHAO

Yes, yes, I know you fear the spirits, Iroh -- I have heard rumors about your journey into the spirit world. But the Ocean and Moon gave up their immortality to become a part of our world. And now they will face the consequences.

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - TEMPLE OF KOH

Aang approaches a stone structure that looks like a spirit-head. The entrance is a mouth, leading into darkness.

Aang stops at the entrance, and hesitates. He is startled by a noise -- then he realizes it's an animal (with a curly tail) SCURRYING nearby -- Aang looks over at it.

AANG

(relieved)

Oh... you're just a curly-tailed bluenose--

The animal hears Aang and turns toward him, revealing it has no face!

AANG

(GASPS)

AANG/ AVATAR ROKU (V.O.)
Show no fear. Show no emotion at
all.

Aang closes his eyes to steel himself...

AANG
(DEEP MEDITATIVE BREATH -- INHALE,
THEN SLOW EXHALE)

He enters the darkness...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - TEMPLE OF KOH

Aang enters the mouth of the temple.

INT. SPIRIT WORLD - TEMPLE OF KOH - CONTINUOUS

It's almost completely dark inside -- very spooky and creepy. Aang hears his footsteps echoing in the chamber. He is very dimly lit and surrounded by darkness.

AANG

Hello?

(beat)

I'm looking for a spirit named
Koh...

There's no response. Aang waits. A scary, mask-like face begins to fade into view directly behind Aang -- just a few inches away -- but Aang is unaware of it. The eyes creepily turn to look at Aang, and a quiet smile comes over the face. Then, VERY SUDDENLY, the creature whirls around directly in front of Aang -- it's a move that would have startled anyone else, but Aang retains his composure.

KOH

Welcome.

Aang bows.

AANG

Thank you.

Koh is a spirit with the body of a serpent, like Medusa. Koh's face is a demon mask at the moment, but it changes to a different (stolen) face from time to time, as warranted.

KOH

My old friend, the Avatar -- it's
been a long time.

AANG

You know me?

Koh's face changes. The effect is like a "slot machine" of faces, as if it's spinning, and stops at a new face. In this case, the new face is that of an ANGRY MAN.

KOH

How could I forget you? One of
your previous incarnations tried to
slay me! Maybe eight or nine
hundred years ago.

AANG
I didn't know that. Why did he --
or I -- try to kill you?

Koh's face changes to that of a beautiful woman, with long flowing hair, and love in her eyes. (That's right, draw that shit!)

KOH
Oh, it was something about stealing
the face of someone you loved.

The face smiles at Aang -- and gazes into his eyes lovingly... Aang gazes back for a beat. For a moment it seems like the memory might flicker back... Then Koh's face changes to a monkey with a bright blue nose.

KOH
(EVIL LAUGHING)

Koh slithers around Aang, winding around him ominously.

KOH
Of course that's all behind us.
Why should I hold a grudge against
you for something in a past life?
After all -- you're a different
person now.
(sinister smile)
You've come to me with a new
face...

Aang calmly takes a deep, nostril-flaring breath.

INT. CAVE - AT THAT MOMENT

Aang's body takes a deep, nostril-flaring BREATH -- Zuko notices and looks up, but Aang remains still after that. Zuko looks out of the cave entrance -- the Sun is just beginning to set, and the blizzard is still going strong.

ZUKO
Guess we'll be here awhile.

EXT. SKY - APPA'S BACK

Katara, Sokka, and the Princess fly through the blizzard on Appa's back, still searching for any sign of Aang. Katara looks downcast.

PRINCESS YUE
Don't worry -- Prince Zuko can't be
getting too far in this weather.

KATARA

I'm not worried they'll get away in
the blizzard. I'm worried that
they won't.

Beat. She looks out at the vast, snowblown, wind-howling
tundra.

SOKKA

They're not going to die in this
blizzard. If we know anything,
it's that Zuko never gives up.
They'll survive -- and we'll find
them.

Sokka delivers his last line with grim determination.

INT. SPIRIT WORLD - TEMPLE OF KOH

Koh (with a bird face) completes a circle around Aang,
stopping in front of him to scrutinize his features.

KOH

It's been a long time since I've
added a child's face to my
collection. So... How may I help
you?

AANG

I need to find the Moon and the
Ocean.

He shifts through several PROGRESSIVELY OLDER faces, to
demonstrate the point, settling on an extremely venerable and
withered face.

KOH

Their spirit names are "Tui" (PRON:
TWEE) and "La" -- Push and Pull.
And that has been the nature of
their relationship for all time.

AANG

Please, help me find them. An
entire culture could be destroyed
if I don't get their help.

KOH

Oh, you think you need their help?
Actually, it's quite the other way
around.

A beat as this sinks in. Koh's face suddenly spins to an angry, fiery, grotesque demon-like mask in an effort to startle Aang.

KOH
(jarring)
Someone is going to kill them!

Again, Aang breathes and stays calm.

AANG
What do you mean? How can I find
them and protect them?

Koh's face reverts to a "calm spirit" face.

KOH
You've already met them, actually.

Koh turns away, and reflects about the Moon and the Ocean.

KOH
Tui and La -- your Moon and Ocean --
have always circled each other in
an eternal dance. They balance
each other: push and pull, life and
death, good and evil... yin and
yang. (PRON: "yahng")

CLOSE ON: Aang's face as he has an epiphany!

AANG'S MEMORY:

The black and white koi fish, circling each other like yin and yang.

BACK TO SCENE:

Aang's huge smile.

AANG
(excited)
The koi fish!

But Aang catches himself, and quickly regains a blank expression just as Koh whirls around to try catch him, but is too late.

AANG
(super-calm)
I must be going now.

Koh's face changes to that of a strong, young Fire Nation officer.

KOH
We'll meet again.

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - TEMPLE OF KOH - CONTINUOUS

When Aang emerges, Roku is there again.

AANG
The spirits are in trouble -- I
need to get back to the physical
world!

AVATAR ROKU
A friend is here to guide you back.

Roku indicates a panda-like spirit.

AANG
Hei Bai!

Hei Bai gets down on all fours so Aang can climb aboard.
Once Aang is on his back, he runs off into the forest.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

The full Moon rises in the sky. Beneath it, we see various battle scenes in which Waterbenders' skills are extremely enhanced.

Some Waterbenders knock down Fire Nation opponents with powerful waves, and another directs a powerful blast like a high-pressure firehose, mowing down opponents.

A line of Fire Nation soldiers and a few tanks press forward to confront a group of Waterbenders. The Waterbenders complete a synchronized move, melting the ice beneath the tanks and soldiers. They then refreeze the ice, so the tanks are trapped, and only the heads and arms of the soldiers are above ground.

A Waterbender in a one-on-one fight with a Firebender dodges a few fiery blows, then bends two globulous water spheres onto the hands (or feet) of his opponent. The Firebender tries another move or two, but his water gloves render him ineffective -- the Waterbender now walks up to him and punches him out "the old fashioned way." (Should be comical a la "Indiana Jones," not too violent.)

In a few other instances, Waterbenders are using powerful waves to raise Fire Navy ships out of the water entirely, and then freeze them in place.

We see Pakku confront a small group of powerful Firebenders. Pakku uses the "marionette" style move to manipulate and control one of the Firebenders, turning him against his surprised comrades.

EXT. ZHAO'S SHIP - NIGHT

92 Zhao's ship approaches the outer ring. Zhao is suited up in special battle armor, and he sits atop a Komodo rhino (or whatever invasion vehicle/animal we think is most appropriate.) Several similarly equipped lieutenants accompany him. Zhao clutches a rolled up map.

ZHAO
We'll be following this map to a
very special location. And when we
get there...

He smiles that Zhao smile.

ZHAO
We're going fishing.

Zhao's ship reaches the shore, and lowers its ramp.

EXT. SPIRIT WORLD - LUSH JUNGLY FOREST

Aang and the Hei Bai return to where Aang started his journey in the spirit world.

AANG
This is where I came in -- but how
do I get back?

Hei Bai inhales, and then BLOWS A STRONG GUST OF BLUE LIGHT at Aang. Aang starts to glow in the reverse of the normal Avatar state -- everything BUT eyes and tattoos glow -- and then in a flash he disappears from the spirit world.

Nearby, we see the odd spirit from before, who has one eye open.

ODD SPIRIT
Good riddance.

Hei Bai looks at him -- then transforms into the Black and White spirit for a moment and--

BLACK AND WHITE SPIRIT
(ANGRY ROAR)

ODD SPIRIT
(TERRIFIED SCREAM)

The odd spirit, terrified, goes running off into the jungle. The Hei Bai reverts back to panda form, then sits and begins casually gnawing some bamboo.

EXT. SPIRIT OASIS - MOMENTS LATER

Aang re-appears, at first in "reverse glow" state. But once he completely materializes, we see he is in "spirit world colors." Momo is there, but can't see him or hear him.

AANG
(excited to see him)
Momo!
(beat)
Momo?

Aang looks at himself, and realizes...

AANG
Oh no... where's my body?

A weird effect, as if Aang's spirit-body starts to dissolve before his very eyes -- then he is sucked backwards out of the oasis, BLAZING a BRIGHT ARC through the night sky...

EXT. SKY - APPA'S BACK - THAT MOMENT

Katara sees the shining arc trail across the sky. Similar to the shining column in episode 101, its source is clearly something very powerful.

KATARA
Look! -- that's got to be Aang!
(smiles confidently)
Yip, yip!

Appa changes direction, and heads toward the light.

INT. CAVE - SIMULTANEOUS

The arc completes it's trajectory, landing precisely on Aang's body. His eyes immediately flicker awake. He sees Zuko -- who smiles.

ZUKO
(dryly)
Welcome back.

AANG
Good to be back.

107 Aang tries to get up and fight Zuko, but immediately falls
flat on his face. With a powerful blast of breath, Aang
blows himself off the ground so he's standing again. 107

ZUKO
That won't be enough to escape.

Aang tries to struggle for a moment, then realizes Zuko might
be right. Just then, Appa lands outside the cave.

AANG
Appa!

Katara is first to dismount. Zuko takes a fighting stance.

ZUKO
(to Katara)
Here for a rematch?

KATARA
Trust me, Zuko...

She looks at the full Moon.

KATARA
It's not going to be much of a
match.

With that, Katara does an awesome (TBD) Waterbending move,
that slides Zuko backwards, freezes him in place, then knocks
him out "cold". Sokka and the Princess rush to untie Aang.

SOKKA
(impressed)
Hey, this is some quality rope.

AANG
We need to get to the oasis! The
spirits are in trouble...

Everyone piles back onto Appa. Aang hesitates.

AANG
(re: Zuko)
Wait -- we can't just leave him
here.

A beat.

SOKKA
Sure we can. Let's go.

AANG
No. If we leave him, he'll die.

Aang starts lifting Zuko up, to load him onto Appa.

SOKKA
Yeah, this makes a lot of sense --
let's bring the guy who's
constantly trying to kill us.

Sokka retrieves the rope and binds Zuko's hands.

EXT. SPIRIT OASIS - THAT MOMENT

We start on the full Moon, and the camera pans down to the Moon's reflection in the koi pond. We see the white koi (the Moon spirit) swim in the Moon's reflection, making a few ripples. A hand [or a net?] reaches into frame and grabs the fish...

It is Zhao. He places the flailing koi fish in a sack, and he smiles evilly.

EXT. SKY - THAT MOMENT

The moon darkens, becoming blood red -- Zhao's capturing the spirit has caused a lunar eclipse!

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

The lunar eclipse -- a large, blood red Moon. (Note: the Moon appears larger during eclipses, having something to do with an optical effect involving the color red, I believe.)

EXT. NORTH POLE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The tide lulls. It's eerily quiet. We see a similar sequence of shots as we did in act two when we saw the Waterbenders dominating, only this time Waterbenders find that they are COMPLETELY POWERLESS. Their moves are ineffectual, and the "tide" of the battle completely turns as Fire Nation troops now quickly and easily scatter and blow past Water Tribe defenses.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Back on the red Moon -- Appa's SILHOUETTE passes over it...

EXT. SKY - APPA'S BACK - THAT MOMENT

Katara, Aang, Sokka and Princess Yue are all loaded on Appa, as well as Zuko who is still out cold. Princess Yue swoons, a bit queasy.

SOKKA
Are you okay?

PRINCESS YUE
I feel faint.

AANG
I feel it too. The Moon spirit is
in trouble.

Princess Yue looks down, sadly.

PRINCESS YUE
I owe the Moon spirit my life.

SOKKA
What do you mean?

PRINCESS YUE
When I was born, I was very sick
and very weak. Most babies cry
when they're born, but I was born
as if I were asleep, my eyes
closed. Our healers did everything
they could -- they told my mother
and father I was going to die.
(MORE)

PRINCESS YUE(cont'd)

My father pleaded with the spirits
to save me. That night, beneath
the full Moon, he brought me to the
oasis and placed me in the pond.
My dark hair turned white -- I
opened my eyes and began to cry --
and they knew I would live.

(May want to consider using a stylized flashback sequence
during the above speech to add visual interest.)

PRINCESS YUE

That's why my mother named me Yue,
for the Moon.

Sokka is moved.

EXT. SPIRIT OASIS - SIMULTANEOUS

Zhao stands beside the pond, gazing at the eclipsed moon, and
bathed in evil light, addressing his lieutenants. Momo hides
nearby.

ZHAO

I am a legend now. The Fire Nation
will for generations tell stories
about the Great Zhao, who darkened
the Moon. They will call me Zhao
the Conqueror... Zhao the
Moonlayer... Zhao the Invincible!

Just as Zhao is completely puffed up on his own pride -- Momo
runs and leaps onto Zhao's head, covering his face and eyes.

ZHAO

(SURPRISED SCREAM)

MOMO

(SCREECHING AND CHITTERING)

ZHAO

Get it off, get it off!

Two of Zhao's lieutenants awkwardly try to help... but don't
know what to do.

In the distraction. Appa lands in the oasis. Momo's ears
perk up, and he leaps off and goes flying to Aang.

Zhao and his men turn to face Appa and his passengers -- they
are ready for a fight. The lieutenants each assume an
impressive fighting stance, flashing a little fire and smoke
in the process.

Aang, Sokka, and Katara jump off of Appa -- Aang does a cool Airbending stance, Katara does a cool Waterbending stance (though Waterbending doesn't actually work at the moment) and then Sokka does something funny. It's a face off...

ZHAO
Don't bother.

They all look to Zhao: he stands by the pond, holding the sack that contains the Moon koi. He targets his other hand at it, as if he could unleash a fire blast at any moment.

AANG
Zhao, don't!

Aang drops his staff, and approaches Zhao cautiously.

ZHAO
It's my destiny -- to destroy the
Moon -- and the Water Tribe.

AANG
Destroying the Moon won't just hurt
the Water Tribe, it will hurt
everyone -- including you.

Zhao hesitates. It's a tense situation -- like a hostage negotiation. (Meanwhile, back on Appa's saddle, we see Zuko just beginning to come to.)

AANG
Without the Moon, everything would
fall out of balance -- you have no
idea what kind of chaos that would
unleash on the world.

UNCLE (O.S.)
He's right, Zhao.

We see Uncle has joined them at the oasis.

ZHAO
General Iroh -- why am I not
surprised to discover your
treachery.

UNCLE
I'm no traitor, Zhao. The Fire
Nation needs the Moon too -- we all
depend on the balance.

Zhao doesn't flinch. Uncle changes tack -- a fire burns behind his eyes we've never seen before.

UNCLE
(threatening)
Whatever you do to that spirit,
I'll unleash on you tenfold -- let
it go now!

Zhao nods. He empties the sack into the koi pond. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief -- the showdown is over. The white fish and the black fish circle each other in the yin-yang like pattern -- balance is restored.

ZHAO
(ANGRY SCREAM)

Suddenly Zhao unleashes a huge fireball into the pond! If we can, we show the white fish float to the top, like a dead goldfish -- if not, then we just show the black fish circling alone.

The moon is now gone from the sky.

Everyone stands there shocked. Uncle turns and fixes his fiery gaze on Zhao -- Zhao cowers then turns and runs, fleeing the oasis. Zuko darts off after him.

EXT. NORTH POLE - THAT MOMENT

Back to the battle -- but everyone has stopped fighting, to look up at the empty sky. It is dark and still and eerie.

EXT. SPIRIT OASIS - SIMULTANEOUS

Uncle and Aang watch the black fish circling sadly in the pond.

PRINCESS YUE
There's no hope now, it's over.

AANG
No... it's not over.

Aang wades out into the pond. His eyes and tattoos begin to glow, as he goes into the Avatar state. He touches the black fish, and its eyes begin glowing too. The fish begins to grow in size, until it is large enough for Aang to climb on its back -- then they both suddenly dive beneath the surface. Uncle goes into the water, reaches in, and lifts the body of the white fish out in his arms.

EXT. NORTH POLE - MOMENTS LATER

Something huge bursts from the water -- it is the black koi fish, having become an immense, Godzilla-like spirit monster.

Its eyes glow, and in its heart, controlling it, is Aang.
(Bryan and Filoni have something specific in mind for this -- it should be clear that Aang is controlling this huge monster which is the embodied wrath of the Ocean itself.)

Aang/the Koi Monster unleash devastating havoc on the Fire Navy. They smash ships and toss them about as if they were toys. They sweep multiple ships out to sea with a single arm motion. This is the awesome, scary, wrath of the Ocean itself! And all this happens in elaborate detail to be choreographed by Filoni and to take up much more screen time than this stage direction would otherwise seem to indicate. (NOTE: it should be clear that Aang is saving the day, not just destroying everything in sight -- i.e. we should see Pakku, Chief Arnook, etc. being protected and rescued.)

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - CANALS

Zhao scales an icy wall to make his escape. Suddenly, a fire ball slams into him and the wall, causing him to lose his grip. He crashes to the ground, landing in a heap of snow and ice. He looks up to see Zuko standing there.

ZHAO
You're alive?!

ZUKO
You tried to have me killed!

Zuko angrily punches a fire blast at Zhao, but Zhao rolls to dodge it and leaps to his feet. They begin to circle each other.

ZHAO
Yes, I did. You're the Blue Spirit
-- an enemy of the Fire Nation!
You freed the Avatar...

ZUKO
I had no choice!

ZHAO
You should have chosen to accept
your failure... your disgrace...
then at least you could have lived.

Zhao strikes with a huge barrage. An intense fight ensues.

EXT. SPIRIT OASIS - SIMULTANEOUS

Katara, Sokka, the Princess, and Uncle Iroh are trying to help the white fish. Katara tries to heal it, encircling it in silvery water. The water sloughs off, but the fish does not revive.

KATARA
It's too late -- it's dead.

A sad beat as this sinks in. Then Uncle notices something about Princess Yue.

UNCLE
(to Yue)
You have been touched by the Moon spirit. Some of its life is in you.

PRINCESS YUE
Yes, you're right... it gave me life.

She bows her head.

PRINCESS YUE
Maybe I can give it back.

SOKKA
No! You don't have to do that.

PRINCESS YUE
It's my duty, Sokka.

SOKKA
I won't let you. Your father told me to protect you!

PRINCESS YUE
I have to do this.

She walks forward, and places her hands on the fish. She closes her eyes and concentrates. Then suddenly she collapses.

SOKKA
No!

He rushes forward to catch her in his arms.

SOKKA
She's gone... she's gone.

Then she literally fades and disappears. The white fish suddenly begins to move... it's alive again. It's a very bittersweet moment. Then the fish begins to glow an ethereal white... and it transforms into an ethereal white version of Princess Yue.

PRINCESS YUE
Goodbye, Sokka.

SOKKA
Yue...

She walks toward him and gently kisses him.

PRINCESS YUE
I'll always be with you.

Ethereal white Yue floats up towards the sky, and disappears. The dark clouds drift apart, and reveal the full Moon -- shining more brightly than ever.

EXT. NORTH POLE - SIMULTANEOUS

Beneath the moonlight, we see Aang and the Koi monster illuminated clearly, as they pause to look at the moon. Also we see the scene of destruction -- not a single Fire Navy ship has survived. The monster takes a less aggressive pose, soothed now that the moon has returned. Both of their eyes stop glowing, and the monster (with Aang) returns to beneath the surface of the ocean.

EXT. WATER TRIBE CITY - CANALS - SIMULTANEOUS

Zhao and Zuko, locked in struggle, stop when they realize the Moon has returned. They both look up in awe -- then Zhao becomes angry.

ZHAO
It can't be!

Zuko notices something behind Zhao -- from the canal, the black hand of the Ocean spirit reaches for Zhao, and wraps its long fingers around his legs, pulling him to the ground.

Zuko turns his back on Zhao and closes his eyes. The hand drags Zhao backwards towards the water -- Zhao claws hard to try and resist. Zuko agonizes for a moment -- then decides to be merciful. He runs to Zhao and offers him his hand.

ZUKO
Take my hand!

Zhao shakes his head "no," preferring his fate to accepting help from Zuko. The hand drags Zhao beneath the water, and he disappears into the darkness. A moment later, there is a blinding flash of light from beneath the surface.

THE NEXT MORNING

EXT. NORTHERN WATER TRIBE - DAY

We see the Moon in the daytime sky. The Water Tribe city is in ruins. But the Fire Navy has all been destroyed or fled. Pakku talks to Katara. The Chief and Sokka talk. A few others are around. Aang stands off, alone.

PAKKU

I've decided to go to the South Pole -- some other warriors and benders and healers want to join me. It's time we helped rebuild our sister tribe.

KATARA

What about Aang? He still needs to learn Waterbending.

PAKKU

Well -- then he better get used to calling you Master Katara.

The Chief and Sokka look up at the Moon. The Chief chokes back tears.

CHIEF ARNOOK

The spirits gave me a vision when she was born. I saw a beautiful, brave young woman become the moon spirit... I knew this day would come.

SOKKA

You must be proud.

CHIEF ARNOOK

So proud. And sad.

EXT. NORTHERN SEA - DAY

A simple raft, made of a large piece of debris, with a mast and a crudely fashioned sail -- makes its way out into the ocean, past the battered iceberg defenses of the Water Tribe. Uncle and Zuko are on board. Uncle adjusts the sail.

UNCLE

I'm surprised, prince Zuko. Surprised that you are not at this moment trying to capture the Avatar.

Zuko sits down.

ZUKO
I'm tired.

Uncle smiles, proudly.

UNCLE
Then you should rest. A man needs
his rest.

Zuko nods. He lies down, and closes his eyes.

EXT. NORTHERN WATER TRIBE - DAY

As Aang surveys the ruins, Katara comes up next to him. People are beginning to clean up debris... Waterbenders are beginning to repair structures... they're beginning to rebuild. Aang looks at Katara. She smiles, and hugs him. Then Momo comes running over to them.

MOMO
(CHITTERS)

KATARA
You too, Momo!

AANG
Come here!

Momo joins in on the hugfest.

We pan out to some kind of shot of everyone together beneath the Moon, if possible.

INT. FIRELORD'S PALACE

We hear the voice of Fire Lord Ozai.

FIRE LORD
Iroh is a traitor. And your
brother Zuko is a failure. I have
a task for you...

We see he is speaking to Princess AZULA. She bows.

END OF SHOW